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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049711
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02 L-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA TSHUGART (TEXT RECEIVE FROM WHITE HOUS
APPROVED BY ARA TSHUGART
----------060243 046932 /73
O 060229Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PAN, EWWT

SUBJECT:PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUESTION CONCERNING PANAMA CANAL POSED TO THE PRESIDENT DURING THE MARCH 5 RADIO PROGRAM QUOTE ASK PRESIDENT CARTER UNQUOTE, AND THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE:

2. QUESTION: BEGIN TEXT: I AM JOHN STRICKLAND FROM FAYETTE-VILLE, NC.I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH YOU, AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR SENTIMENTS ARE ON THE PANAMA CANAL 1904 TREATY, AND CHANGING IT.

3. ANSWER: (THE PRESIDENT) IT IS GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, MR. STRICKLAND. MY SISTER LIVES IN FAYETTEVILLLE, AS YOU MAY KNOW. I AM GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

4. WE ARE NOW NEGOTIATING WITH PANAMA AS EFFECTIVELY AS WE CAN. AS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW, THE TREATY SIGNED
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WHEN THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS PRESIDENT GAVE PANAMA SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE ITSELF. IT GAVE US CONTROL OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE AS THOUGH WE HAD

SOVEREIGNTY. SO WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A LEGAL SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

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5. AS FAR AS SOVEREIGNTY IS CONCERNED, I DON'T HAVE ANY HANG-UP ABOUT THAT. I WOULD HOPE THAT AFTER, AND EXPECT THAT AFTER THE YEAR 2000 THAT WE WOULD HAVE AN ASSURED CAPACITY OR CAPABILITY OF OUR COUNTRY WITH PANAMA GUARANTEEING THAT THE PANAMA CANAL WOULD BE OPEN AND OF USE TO OUR OWN NATION AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. SO THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATION NOW -- IT HAS BEEN GOING ON QUITE A WHILE -- IS TO PHASE OUT OUR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, BUT TO GUARANTEE THAT EVEN AFTER THE YEAR 2000 THAT THEY WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THE PANAMA CANAL OPEN TO THE USE OF AMERICAN AND OTHER SHIPS.

7. MR. STRICKLAND: I UNDERSTAND, AND I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE ARE NOT TOO LENIENT, BECAUSE WE HAVE LOTS OF MONEY INVESTED IN THE CANAL ZONE. I REALLY THINK THE CANAL ZONE BELONGS TO US A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE THINK IT DOES. END TEXT "
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3192275
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Subject: PRESIDENT CARTER\'S STATEMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, EWWT, PN, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98ac12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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